

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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U.S.S.R.Political**Attachment**

[redacted]

THE M.V.D. OFFICERS' SCHOOL, KUSBYSHEV

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(Note: Except where otherwise stated the term "M.V.D." throughout this report is used in the sense of a Ministry separate from the M.G.B. before the latter was absorbed by it in the spring of 1953.

A list of personalities will be found in Appendix "A" to this report.)

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[redacted]

CHANGE OF SCHOOL'S NAME

3. For reasons unknown [redacted] the name of the school was changed 25X1
about November, 1951, to SHKOLA DLYA KURSOV USOVERSHENSTVOVANIYA OFITZERSKOGO
SOSTAVA M.V.D. (School for Advanced Instruction of M.V.D. Officer Personnel).
This did not, however, cause any change in the curriculum already commenced. 25X1

[redacted]

[redacted] Although there was nothing at the entrance to indicate what the 25X1
establishment was, many KUSBYSHEV inhabitants apparently knew that it was some
sort of M.V.D. school.

SUPERVISION OF SCHOOL

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4.

[redacted]

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/school was ...

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school was subordinate to the UPRAVLENIE VOENNO-UCHEBNYKH ZAVEDENIY M.V.D. (Directorate of Military Educational Establishments of the M.V.D.), located at Shariko-Podshipnikovskaya Ulitsa No. 6, MOSCOW (near the Stalin Motor Works - Zavod imeni Stalina). Officers in M.V.D. uniforms from there (in particular Lieutenant-Colonel ZASTSEV (fnu) of the department dealing with instruction of Marxism/Leninism - see Appendix "A") visited the school in the spring of 1952 and 1953 in order to supervise the annual examinations. All questions prepared for the examinations had to be approved by them before the examinations took place. For this purpose an Examination Commission (Ekzamenatsionnaya Komissiya) was set up from among the teachers with the senior visiting officer as Chairman.

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CLOSURE OF SCHOOL

6. [redacted] the school had no connection whatever with the M.G.B.

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[redacted] the functions of the M.V.D. before the M.G.B. was absorbed by it, [redacted] was mainly concerned with the

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supervision of forced labour camps and the provision of labour forces for the various state constructional projects.

There were rumours amongst 25X1

students and teachers of the school in April and May, 1953, to the effect that it was to be closed on completion of the current course in the summer of 1953.

no official announcement regarding the 25X1

school's future had been made.

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Captain SAFRONOV (see Appendix "A"), had been a fellow-teacher at the school. the school had been definitely closed 25X1 down at the end of August, 1953, he had been dismissed from the M.V.D. and was trying to obtain a post as political lecturer at the educational branch of the MOSCOW Obkompartii (Dom Partijnogo Prosveshcheniya Obkompartii). The reason for the closure was not known.

ORGANISATION OF SCHOOL

7. Total number of persons at the school was approximately 200, of which about 160 were students, 19 teachers, and the remainder administrative and political personnel, etc..

8. For instructional purposes the school was divided into the following five syndicates ("TSIKLY"):

- (a) Sotsial'noy-Ekonomicheskoy-Distsiplinnoy Tsikl (Social, Economic and Disciplinary Syndicate)

Subjects covered were: political economy, history of the Communist Party, party political activities in the Soviet Army (Partpolitrabota v Armii), and the principles of military instruction (Osnovy Voinskogo Vospitaniya).

There were five male teachers.

- (b) Yuridicheskoy Tsikl (Juridical Syndicate)

Subjects covered were: criminal law (Ugolovnoye Pravo), civil law (Grazhdanskoye Pravo), labour law (Sovetskoye Trudovoye Pravo), and the general organisation of Soviet courts (Sudoustroystvo).

There were two male and two female teachers.

- (c) Spetsialnyy Tsikl (Special Syndicate)

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Subjects covered by it were mostly connected with

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/planning ... 25X1

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planning, finance and administration - with particular emphasis on practical exercises as distinct from the theoretical instruction in economics given under paragraph 8 (a) above. Access to it for teachers not employed in it was difficult

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some instruction

on matters of a secret, political nature (such as the running of forced labour camps) may have been given there.

There were four male teachers.

(d) Tsiki Russkogo Yazyka i Literatury (Syndicate of Russian Language and Literature)

The general standard of instruction did not exceed that of secondary school (Srednyaya Shkola).

There were one male and two female teachers.

(e) Tsiki Taktiki i Fizicheskoy Podgotovki (Tactics and Physical Training Syndicate)

Subjects covered were military drill, physical training and sport.

There were three male teachers.

9. Apart from the above-mentioned syndicates, all of which formed part of the so-called UCHEBNYY OTDEL (Teaching Section), subject listed the following non-teaching sections:

- (a) Sanchast (Medical Section)
- (b) Finchast (Financial Section)
- (c) Prodveshchsnabzheniye (Supply Section)
- (d) Otdel Kadrov (Personnel Section)
- (e) Politchast (Political Section)

VARIOUS TYPES OF TEACHERS

10. Of the teachers mentioned above, two in paragraph 8 (b), two in paragraph 8 (d) and one in paragraph 8 (a) were civilians employed by the Directorate of Military Educational Establishments of the M.V.D. on a temporary, unestablished basis for the express purpose of giving instruction in their respective specialities. Those in paragraph 8 (b) had previously worked in Soviet courts, those in paragraph 8 (d) had been teachers of Russian in secondary schools, and the one in paragraph 8 (a) was a graduate in political economy of MOSCOW University. they had been offered

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their employment at the KUSBYSHCHEV school (or directed to it) by the Personnel Sections of their former places of work.

11. The remainder of the teachers were all officers in M.V.D. military uniform and had presumably obtained their posts in a similar way to the students (see paragraph 15 below). For instance, Captain SAFRONOV (see Appendix "A") was a former artillery officer, aged about thirty-five, who had obtained his M.V.D. post after demobilization in 1947 through personal connections. Before the Second World War he had attended the KUSBYSHCHEV Pedagogical Institute and was a trained teacher of Russian. Some of them, like the Head of the Teaching Section - a Lieutenant/Colonel earning 4,000 roubles a month, who had not completed secondary school - were not well-educated.

12. On the whole, however, both the civilian and uniformed teachers had in most cases had some form of higher education and from this point of view were superior not only to the students but also to the non-teaching personnel of the school.

M.V.D. officers in general regarded themselves as some form of elite, not subject to the regulations observed by ordinary citizens.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF STUDENTS

13. [] the main purpose of the KUSBYSHCHEV school was to improve the general standard of education of M.V.D. officers, with particular emphasis on finance, economics and administration, which together constituted about 50% of all instruction. The general level of intelligence and education was surprisingly low. None of the students had attended a full course of instruction at a Higher Educational Establishment, although a few had studied part-time at Higher Evening Institutes. Only about 25% of them had had a secondary (Sredney) or secondary technical (Sredney tekhnicheskoy) education, the remainder having merely attended elementary school (Nachal'naya Shkola). Many of them spoke and wrote Russian badly, had practically no knowledge of Russian literature and could be considered semi-literate.

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AttachmentUNIFORMS OF STUDENTS

14. All students were officers of the M.V.D. and wore the M.V.D. military uniform, i.e., khaki-green Soviet Army tunics and breeches, peaked caps with blue crowns and red cap-bands, collar-badges (Petlitsy) of red with blue piping, and shoulder-boards with blue piping. About 20% of the shoulder-boards were narrower than the usual Soviet Army ones and had a silver background; these referred to as "Intendantskie Pogony", meant administrative, legal, medical, veterinary grades, etc.. The remaining 80% wore shoulder-boards of various arms of service, such as infantry, artillery, tanks and even air force. All shoulder-boards without exception had the distinctive blue piping of the M.V.D.. Ranks varied from Junior Lieutenant to Lieutenant-Colonel; there was only one of the latter.

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RECRUITMENT AND TRANSFER OF STUDENTS TO THE M.V.D.

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15. [redacted] the students at the school [redacted] all of them had been officers of the Soviet Army or Air Force during the Second World War and had either been offered jobs in the M.V.D. on demobilisation or had obtained them as a result of personal contacts with the M.V.D. during the war. They all had to go through the formal process of demobilisation, but were then reinstated in the M.V.D. in the last rank held before demobilisation. About 40% of the officers were on an unestablished basis of employment with the M.V.D. and were still registered as reserve officers of their previous arm of service at their local Razvoenkomat. The remainder were permanent, established officers of the M.V.D. and were registered for military service with the latter, their names having been struck off the Razvoenkomat registers. [redacted]

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[redacted] in some cases permanent status was acquired through personal acquaintance on the "old boy net". Average age of the students was 37 to 38, the youngest being 26 and the oldest 48.

PAY OF STUDENTS

16. Up to September, 1952, the permanent M.V.D. officers received, in addition to their normal M.V.D. pay (which varied between 750 and 1,300 roubles monthly), additional pay for their rank (e.g., Lieutenant - 500 roubles, Senior

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Lieutenant - 600 roubles, Captain - 700 roubles, Major - 900 roubles, Lieutenant-Colonel - 1,100 roubles monthly) similar to that in the Soviet Army proper. As the temporary M.V.D. officers did not receive rank pay or anything else in lieu of it much dissatisfaction and envy were caused.

17. In September, 1952, however, rank pay was abolished for all M.V.D. officers, although it apparently remained in force in the Soviet Army proper. This measure, which was associated in the minds of the students with Minister KRUGLOV, was naturally most unpopular and seriously affected the morale of the students during the remainder of subject's stay at the school. Drunkenness, debauchery and a general lack of interest in their studies became more common. The official reason given for the withdrawal of rank pay, i.e., that the sharp drop in the cost of living and the increased well-being that had taken place in the U.S.S.R. in the last five years or so made such a privilege unnecessary, was not accepted by the students. A few of them wrote anonymous letters of complaint to BERNIA.

(Note: Although [] the students apparently regarded KRUGLOV as their Minister, it was generally assumed that BERNIA was still the main influence in the M.V.D. behind the scenes.) 25X1

18. After STALIN's death and BERNIA's official appointment as the new M.V.D. Minister rumours began to circulate in the school to the effect that rank pay would be restored and that conditions of service generally would be improved. No change took place, however, whilst subject remained in M.V.D. employment, nor did he hear of any such subsequent development.

RACIAL ORIGIN OF STUDENTS

19. The majority of the students at the school were of Great Russian and Ukrainian nationality. 25X1

[]
[] About 12% were of nationalities of the U.S.S.R. other than Russian, e.g., Tartars, Central Asians, Caucasians, Bashkirs. About 5% were Jews. There was no discrimination on the part of the school staff against the non-Russian minorities or the Jews, and [] no anti-Semitism or anti-racial feeling amongst the students themselves. 25X1

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COMMON FACTORS AMONGST STUDENTS
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20.

many of them had been rather

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seriously wounded, though not disabled, during the Second World War. And, as mentioned in paragraph 13 above, their educational standard was pretty low.

The nearest approach to a common type

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was that of army sergeant-major, i.e., they were ignorant and aggressive, and had little knowledge of anything outside the limited sphere of barracks and parade-ground.

POLITICAL SUPERVISION IN THE SCHOOL

21. The Political Section of the school always kept a watchful eye on the political line presented in the teachers' lectures. this Section received directives and instructions in this respect from superiors in the Politotdel of the Upravleniye Voenno-Uchebnykh Zavedeniy M.V.D. in MOSCOW.

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Supervision of lectures at the

KUNBYSHCHEV school was exercised by members of the Politichast there, who sat in,

lectures on an average twice a month, as well as by the occasional visitors from MOSCOW (see paragraph 4 above). The Politichast presumably made periodical reports on the teachers and the teaching to the Politotdel in MOSCOW, and certainly advised (if they did not order) the Head of the school on political matters. Personal relations between the Head of the School and the Head of the Politichast were not good, each apparently regarding the other as inferior in intelligence, education and military experience. The former would not, however, refuse to accept political advice from the latter.

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22. lectures on political economy largely guided by leading articles in "Pravda" and the journals "Bolshevik" and "Voprosy

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/Ekonomiki" ...

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Ekonomiki" as to the current party line.

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23.

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[REDACTED] after the death of STALIN, when the STALIN cult (Kult Lichnosti) began to be criticised in the Soviet press [REDACTED] emphasis placed instead on the collective leadership of the Communist Party. 25X1

24. In addition to the activities of the Politchast there was a close liaison between the school and the KUNBYSHEV Raykompartii, as the school was nominally subordinate to the Raykom as a primary party organisation (Pervichnaya Organisatsiya). Communist Party members of the school had to attend party meetings on an average once a month; these were held at the school, and members of the Raykom were present on only three or four occasions during subject's stay in KUNBYSHEV. [REDACTED] disciplinary matters concerned with personal behaviour or of a minor nature not connected with the school curriculum or methods of teaching were discussed with the Raykom. The Raykom had, in his opinion, little or no influence over the school's organisation from a political point of view; this could only come from the Politotdel of the Upravleniye Voenno-Uchebnykh Zavedeniy M.V.D. in MOSCOW. 25X1

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APPENDIX "A"

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LIST OF M.V.D. PERSONALITIES

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AttachmentAt the Directorate of Military Educational Establishments of the M.V.D., MOSCOW

Colonel NIKIFOROV (fnu) Head of the section responsible for the teaching of Marxism/Leninism.

Lieutenant-Colonel ZAVTSEV (fnu) Deputy to Colonel NIKIFOROV.

Colonel MASLOV (fnu) Head of Personnel Section.

Major PROTOSENYA Officer in Personnel Section.

At the M.V.D. School, KUFBYZHEV

Colonel TARATORKIN (fnu) Head of Courses (Nachal'nik Kursov).
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Colonel MELEDIN (fnu) Political Officer (Zampolit).
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Major Vasiliy Sergeevich PEGOV Head of the Social, Economic and Disciplinary Syndicate.
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Captain Evgeniy SAFRONOV Lecturer on Communist Party History in Social, Economic and Disciplinary syndicate.
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Lieutenant FUFAYEV (fnu) Lecturer on Communist Party History in Social, Economic and Disciplinary Syndicate.

Lieutenant-Colonel ZHUKOV (fnu) Head of Tactics and Physical Training Syndicate.

Lieutenant-Colonel KOROBEKOV (fnu) Head of Juridical Syndicate.

Lieutenant VASIN (fnu) Head of Syndicate of Russian Language and Literature.

Major FUKHOV (fnu) Head of Special Syndicate.

Major (Meditsinskoy Sluzhby) ZINOVYEV (fnu) Head of Medical Section.
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Lieutenant (Meditsinskoy Sluzhby) POGODINA (fnu) Female doctor in Medical Section.
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Major DORASHEV (fnu) Was Head of Financial Section until he retired because of age in summer of 1952.

Captain VOVK (fnu) Head of Supply Section until beginning of 1953, when he was transferred to an unknown destination. Ukrainian.

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Senior Lieutenant KUPARIN (fnu) Head of Personnel Section.

Valentina BERNSHTEIN

Lecturer in the Juridical Section.

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Senior Lieutenant SORIN (fnu)

Physical training instructor in the Tactics and Physical Training Syndicate.

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